

A History of Chaudoir's Dock ...

Eli Chaudoir and family arrived in Namur, WI in 1865. Eli and his brother Julis Chaudoir built a dock on the east shore, the dock is now called Chaudoir's Dock.

The dock served as a port where ships (The Dennisin) came into and hauled crops, lumber and passengers to Green Bay, Oconto, and Marinette. The Fuller Goodman Company purchased and logged the land.



John Chaudoir, a son of Eli, purchased the land back in the early 1900's and built a home. In the 1930's he built an eight stool bar running east and west with only a small men's bathroom. John Chaudoir and family also did farming, commercial fishing and ice making.

Mildred Chaudoir, daughter of John, married Joe Destree in 1943. In 1944 they purchased the bar from her father. They remodeled the bar in 1954, adding men's and ladies bathrooms and a sixteen stool bar running north and south with a beautiful view of the Green Bay waters. These also were the years of the beginning of the campground.

In 1973 the dock that Joe and Mildred Destree had renovated, for fishing boat rentals, was partially washed away in a strong North-East storm.

The County Board voted to take over the five acre parcel. They built the existing concrete dock with a public boat launch and small harbor. A new

facility for fishing, picnicking and grilling in the park! The well lit and signal point makes it recognizable from the water for boaters, summer, and winter fishermen.

March 28th, 1980, Bar-bara Chaudoir; daughter of Lawrence and Viola Chaudoir, granddaughter of Julis Chaudoir; purchased Chaudoir's Dock from Mildred and Joe Destree. Barbara began cutting away at the back-bar to in-stall restaurant equipment to serve a few hot sandwiches and Grandma Chaudoir's "Chili Soup". These items have grown through the last twelve years into a full menu. Barbara's "Texas" Chili and "Here's the Beef" Chili were award winning Chili recipes in the Door County Chili Cook Off last year.

In 1984 the barroom and bathrooms were remodeled. A pool table was removed in order to add seating for 14 more people at a party bar and additional seating for ten at round tables. In 1986 the living room was converted into a dining room, with fireplace, that will seat thirty people.

This room also provides the customers with a view overlooking the bay of Green Bay.

The fishing slowly reached a level, in 1987, to prompt the conversion of a three stall garage, across the street from the bar, into a bait shop. This is now the East Reef Bait & Tackle Shop.

To resolve a parking problem, six trailers were moved to make a parking lot north of the bait shop. Vacant land, adjacent to the existing mobile-home court, gave way to house the six trailers leaving 13 more lots for development.

With the help of family and employees, whose names you will recognize as early Belgian settlers; Alexander, Bouche, Lampereur, Baudhuin, Robillard, Engelbert, DeGuelle; and some names not Belgian; O'Hernm Dahms, Merkle, McDonald, Savage, and Gangler the path was cleared for a Chaudoir to still be at Chaudoir's Dock.